

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG ELAB ILO IS

SUBJ: HOROWITZ VISIT: DISCUSSIONS OF ILO MATTERS

REFS: (A) STATE 228429 (NOTAL), STATE 249762 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING HIS VIST TO ISRAEL OCTOBER 9-12 HOROWITZ
HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH LABOR MINISTER BARAM, ISRAELI EMPLOYER AND
WORKER REPRESENTATIVES TO ILO, AND LABOR AND FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIALS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ILO AFFAIRS. HE REVIEWED
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CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ILO AND EXPLAINED THE PURPOSE OF HIS

CURRENT TRIP TO ASIAN CAPITALS TO EXPLAIN U.S. POLICIES AND VIEWS TOWARD ILO. ISRAELI OFFICIALS REMAIN SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED BY THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE GENERAL CONFERENCE BUT REMAIN APPREHENSIVE ABOUT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ORGANIZATION AND ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S ROLE IN THE RECENTLY CANCELLED UPSAL VISIT. END SUMMARY

1. HOROWITZ TRIP. ISRAEL OFFICIALS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HOROWITZ'S TRIP TO ASIAN CAPITALS AND ASKED HIM TO DESCRIBE THE GOALS HE HOPED TO ACHIEVE AND THE REACTIONS HE EXPECTED. HOROWITZ EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. HAD EARLIER THIS YEAR UNDERTAKEN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE INDUSTRIALIZED MEMBERS OF ILO TO EXPLAIN THE U.S. LETTER SETTING FORTH OUR INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO AND TO DISCUSS THE KEY ISSUES WHICH WE EXPECTED TO ARISE DURING THE NEXT YEAR. THE DECISION HAS NOW BEEN MADE TO UNDERTAKE SIMILAR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WE ARE BEGINNING THOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH THIS VISIT TO ASIA. HOROWITZ EXPLAINED THAT HE EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER OPPOSITION DURING HIS VISIT IN CERTAIN CAPITALS BUT HOPED TO LEAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. GOALS REGARDING THE ILO AND PERHAPS MORE COOPERATION.

2. U.S. WITHDRAWAL. BARAM SAID HE FELT THE U.S. LETTER NOTIFYING ILO OF U.S. INTENT TO WITHDRAW HAD BEEN A GOOD MOVE AND ASKED WHAT THE IMPRESSION IS ON OTHER ILO MEMBERS NOW THAT THE TWO YEAR NOTIFICATION PERIOD IS ALMOST HALF FINISHED. HOROWITZ SAID THAT MANY OTHER MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY THE EUROPEANS, HAD INITIALLY REACTED NEGATIVELY BUT HAVE NOW COME TO SEE THE LETTER AS PART OF U.S. EFFORTS TO RETURN THE ORGANIZATION TO ITS ORIGINAL CONCEPTS. WE BELIEVE THE U.S. LETTER HAS FACILITATED COOPERATION WITH LIKE MINDED MEMBER STATES AND HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE TO MOVE TOWARD CHANGES WHICH WE BELIEVE ARE NECESSARY IN THE ILO'S OPERATIONS. OFTEN THESE CHANGES HAVE CENTERED ON ISSUES WHICH HAVE INVOLVED ISRAEL. THE FINAL OUTCOME IS STILL UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER.

3. BARAM'S ACTIVITIES. BARAM SAID THAT ISRAEL CONTINUES TO WORK IN ILO TO SUPPORT THE GOALS THE U.S. IS SEEKING TO ACHIEVE AND SAID THAT IN THIS CONNECTION HE WILL BE SEEING

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THE NEW FRENCH MINISTER OF LABOR IN A TRIP TO EUROPE AT THE END OF THE YEAR. HOROWITZ SUGGESTED THAT BARAM CONSIDER ALSO MEETING WITH BABRIEL VENTEJOL WHO IS THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE TO ILO AND IS PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF FRANCE. THE LATTER POSITION PLACES HIM FOURTH IN THE COUNTRY'S PROTOCOL HIERARCHY AND GIVES HIM DIRECT ACCESS TO THE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER AND HE IS, THEREFORE, IMPORTANT ON ILO QUESTIONS. BARAM SAID HE WOULD

ATTEMPT TO SEE HIM ALSO WHILE HE IS IN FRANCE.

4. BARAM REPEATED A SUGGESTION WHICH HE HAS PREVIOUSLY MADE: THERE SHOULD BE AN INFORMAL CONFERENCE OF FREE WORLD MINISTERS OF LABOR. THE UPCOMING YEAR WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE ILO AND FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS IN GENERAL BECAUSE IT IS THE FINAL TWELVE MONTHS OF THE TWO YEAR NOTIFICATION PERIOD OF U.S. WITHDRAWAL. HE FEELS THAT FREE WORLD MINISTERS OF LABOR ARE NOW CONVINCED OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION AND OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RETURNING TO THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF THE ILO AND SUCH A CONFERENCE COULD SERVE TO COORDINATE THEIR ACTIONS.

5. UPSAL VISIT. ALL ISRAELI OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HOROWITZ MET EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT THE PLANNED VISIT TO ISRAEL OF NORWEGIAN PROFESSOR UPSAL AS DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HAD BEEN CANCELLED. THEY REMAIN APPREHENSIVE, HOWEVER, THAT ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE TO RESCHEDULE THE VISIT AND REQUESTED U.S. VIEWS. HOROWITZ SET FORTH OUR POSITION (REF B) THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE HANDLED BY BLANCHARD AT THE NOVEMBER GB SESSIONS SO THAT THE SUBJECT IS CLOSED. HE SAID THAT THE U.S. WILL TAKE THE POSITION, AS IT HAD AT THE MARCH GOVERNING BODY, THAT THE '74 GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION WAS A VIOLATION OF DUE PROCESS AND THAT THE INQUIRY AND THEREFORE THE VISIT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED. BLANCHARD SHOULD SIMPLY REPORT WHAT HE HAS DONE AND TABLE THE MATERIAL ACCUMULATED ON THE SUBJECT. WE WILL SUGGEST THAT HE AVOID USING TERMINOLOGY WHICH MIGHT INDICATE THAT THE VISIT HAS BEEN "POSTPONED". IF THE ARABS WISH TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS PROCEDURE, THEY SHOULD MAKE USE OF THE ESTABLISHED ILO MACHINERY. WE ARE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT BLANCHARD MUST HAVE SUPPORT IN THE GB FOR THIS PROCEDURE AND WE WILL BE SEEKING TO STRENGTHEN THAT SUPPORT DURING THE NEXT MONTH.

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6. BAR-YAACOV OF THE MFA POINTED OUT THAT NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY REGARDING THE UPSAL VISIT HAD BEEN USED BY THE ARAB REPRESENTATIVES TO RAISE OBJECTIONS WITH BLANCHARD ABOUT THE VISIT BUT THAT THIS WAS JUST AN EXCUSE. ISRAEL FEELS THAT THERE WAS NEVER ANY AGREEMENT THAT THE VISIT WOULD BE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL AND THAT THE ARABS WOULD HAVE USED ANOTHER REASON TO EXPRESS THEIR DISPLEASURE IF THERE HAD NOT BEEN THE PUBLICITY. HOROWITZ AGREED AND SAID THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH BLANCHARD HAD REVEALED THAT THE ARABS CLAIM THAT BLANCHARD HAD TOLD THEM THAT HE WOULD INFORM THEM OF THE DATE OF THE VISIT BUT HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY NEGLECTED TO DO SO. BAR-YAACOV INDICATED THAT THE ISRAELIS NO LONGER ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING BLANCHARD PURSUE HIS INQUIRY OR FOLLOW-UP THE UPSAL VISIT. AS FAR AS THE ISRAELIS

ARE CONCERNED, THEY AGREE WITH OUR POSITION THAT THE ISSUE BE DISPOSED OF ONCE AND FOR ALL IN THE NOVEMBER GOVERNING BODY VETO.

7. OTHER ISSUES. IN HIS DISCUSSIONS HOROWITZ EMPHASIZED THAT MANY ISSUES CONFRONT THE U.S. IN THE ILO; FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE NOVEMBER GB SESSION A TOTAL OF 25 ITEMS ARE SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION. WHILE ISRAEL IS ONLY ONE OF THOSE ITEMS, MANY OF THE OTHER SUBJECTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT: FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE SEEKING AN AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE TO PREVENT CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTIONS WITHOUT PRIOR INVESTIGATION, SUCH AS THE 1974 RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL'S ACTIVITIES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. UNFORTUNATELY, THAT AMENDMENT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE WHERE IT IS BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY A NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO SEEK OTHER CHANGES AS QUID PRO QUO. WE MAY ATTEMPT TO BRING THE ISSUE DIRECTLY TO THE GOVERNING BODY.

8. BAR-YAACOV AGREED THAT ISRAELI-ARAB MATTERS SHOULD NOT BE THE ONLY ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS, THOSE MATTERS OFTEN HIGHLIGHT MISUSE TO WHICH THE ILO HAS BEEN PUT IN RECENT YEARS. HOROWITZ AGREED THAT THESE ISSUES--FOR EXAMPLE, THE UPSAL VISIT--ILLUSTRATE WHAT TROUBLES US IN THE ILO AND IT IS THOSE KINDS OF ACTIVITIES THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO HAVE ELIMINATED OR RESTRICTED.

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